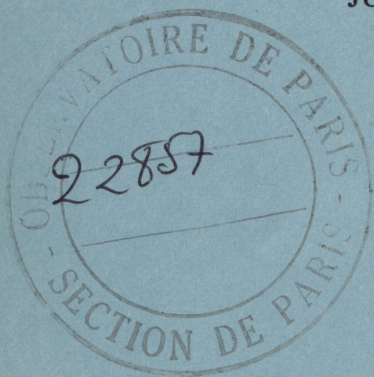


Publications de l'observatoire de Honga  
n° 17.

## Obituary Notice

JULIEN PERIDIER



*G. de Vaucouleurs*

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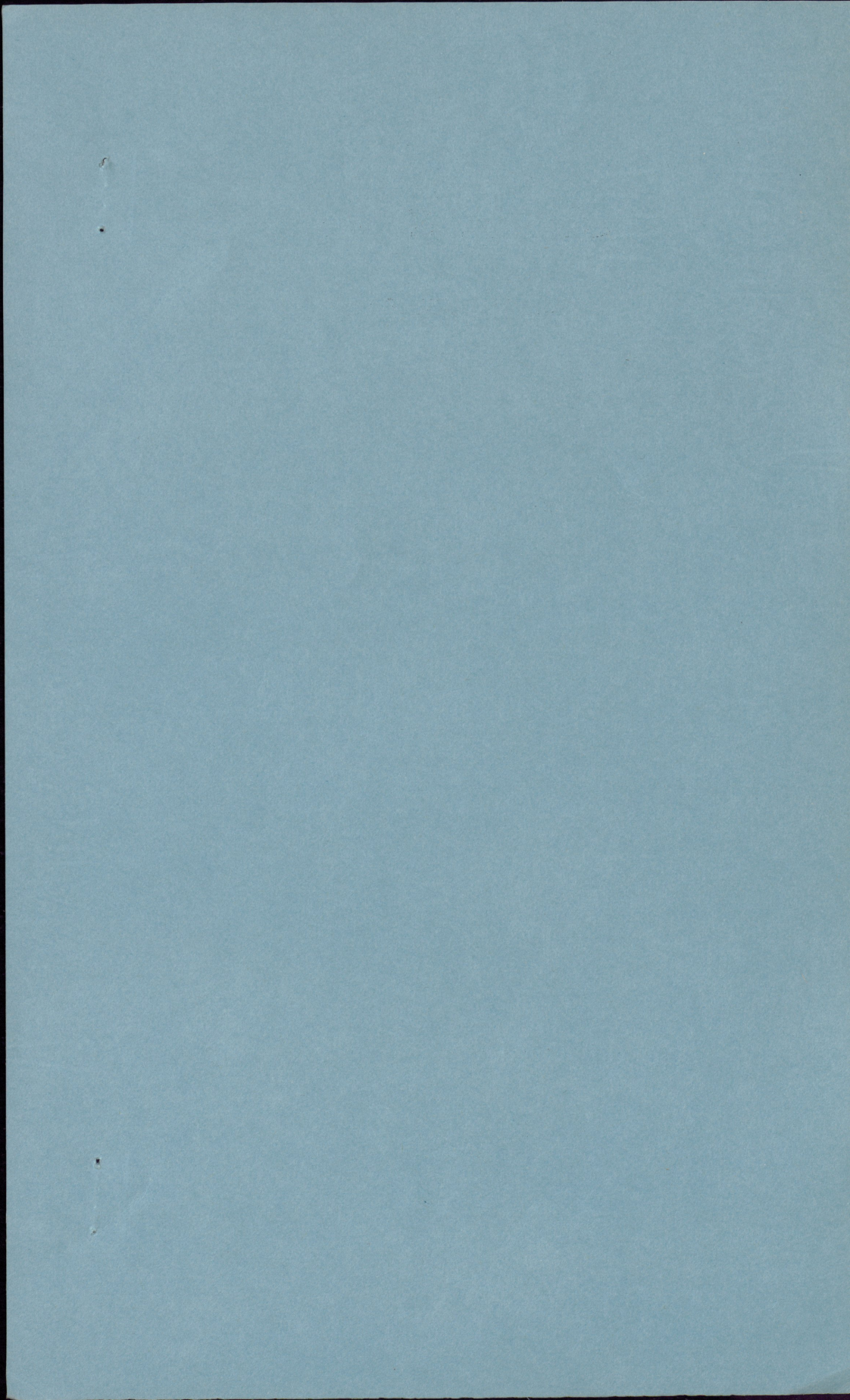
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

Department of Astronomy  
Telephone: (512) 471-1031

Dear Sir:

Please find herewith the final number of the "PUBLICATIONS DE L'OBSERVATOIRE DU HOUGA", the obituary notice of J. PERIDIER, director-founder of the observatory at Le Houga, Gers, France (1933-1966).

If there are gaps in your collection of these "PUBLICATIONS" or in the "ANNALES" of the Péridier Observatory, please notify the undersigned who will attempt to fill the gaps from the remaining stock of publications available. Enclosed is a complete list of the publications issued between 1940 and 1961.

No publications should be sent to Le Houga in the future since the observatory has been permanently closed. However, the telescopes and library of the Péridier Observatory have been acquired by the Department of Astronomy of The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, and in particular the PERIDIER LIBRARY has been re-established as a research and graduate study facility in our department. We would be very grateful if you would be willing to continue sending the publications of your institution to the attention of the undersigned, so that the PERIDIER LIBRARY can be maintained up to date to serve another generation.

If your institution is not already on our exchange list for the Publications of the Department of Astronomy of The University of Texas and for the Contributions of the McDonald Observatory of The University of Texas, please let us know and we will be pleased to give you the service of our publications within the statutory limitations of our authorized circulation.

*G. de Vaucouleurs*

FOR THE PERIDIER LIBRARY  
Dr. G. de Vaucouleurs  
Professor of Astronomy  
Department of Astronomy  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78712 U.S.A.

GV:sh

Enclosures

*nos manquants réclamés  
le 7 mai 59.*

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5-61 all things were done for 1951 devoted to the study of the stars and planets. In 1952 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1953 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1954 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1955 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1956 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1957 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1958 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1959 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1960 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1961 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1962 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1963 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1964 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1965 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1966 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1967 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1968 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1969 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1970 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1971 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1972 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1973 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1974 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1975 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1976 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1977 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1978 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1979 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1980 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1981 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres. In 1982 he was elected to the Académie des Sciences et belles-lettres.

The main topics of research at the Périod Observatory were planetary physics, especially photometry, stellar photometry, variable stars; there was also some work on double stars, flare stars, and galaxies. In July 1959 Le Houcq was selected as one of the stations for a Harvard Observatory expedition to observe the occultation of Regulus by Venus and excellent photoelectric observations of the fading phase were secured with the 8-in. reflector. The success of the mission due in no small part to the excellent facilities provided by Mr Périod encouraged Harvard director, D.H. Menzel, to continue the collaboration through a five-year NASA-supported programme of multicolour photoelectric photometry of the Moon and planets with the 12-in. reflector. This was the last major project carried out at the Périod Observatory from 1961 to 1965. Results will be published by Harvard in the near future. The author of this notice was most fortunate to become in his student days the close collaborator of Mr Périod and to work at his observatory

## JULIEN PÉRIDIER

Julien Péridier, director-founder of the observatory at Le Houga, Gers, France, died on 1967 April 19, in his 86th year. He had been a Fellow of our Society since 1909 and was a life-time member of all the major astronomical societies of Europe and America. An electrical engineer by training with degrees from Ecole Centrale de Paris, and Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité, Mr Péridier made his career in the public transportation industry in the Paris area and in the South of France. In recognition of his work the French Government made him an Officer of the Legion of Honour. His life-long interest and *Violon d'Ingres*, however, was astronomy at first as an active amateur (he observed the solar eclipse of 1905 in Spain and contributed to the Variable Star Sections of the French and British Astronomical Associations before World War I) and later as the founder and active director of his private observatory established in 1933 at Le Houga in the south-west of France. The main instruments were an excellent 8-in. visual and photographic  $f/13$  double refractor with Couder optics and a 12-in. Calver reflector. The two domes with attached darkroom, office, and living quarters were on a hillock at the edge of the village. The observatory was later supplemented by a fine library and a small laboratory and workshop, a darkroom with microphotometer and other auxiliary equipment set up in a basement of Mr Péridier's country house 'Les Arousettes' in Le Houga. Here, for nearly 30 years, astronomical observations were made by young French astronomers and the main results published in several issues of the *Annales* and a score of *Publications de l'Observatoire du Houga* which were exchanged with all major observatories of the world.

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on many occasions between 1939 and 1949 and again during the 1959 Harvard expedition. He and others who enjoyed Mr Périquier's always generous hospitality and his keen scientific mind will remember him as a fine gentleman, a modest and cultured benefactor of astronomy and young astronomers. Mr Périquier may well have been the last of the great private sponsors of astronomical research in the tradition of Lowell, Jarry-Desloges, and McMath. With a solid background in physics, mathematics, and engineering he kept up all his life with the progress of not only astronomy and astronomical techniques, but also of pure and applied physics, electrical engineering, and related subjects. He had a keen interest in most of the other physical and even biological sciences and in the history and philosophy of science. His astronomical and scientific library was always maintained up to date and professional astronomers would occasionally appeal to him for the loan of hard-to-get publications, in particular during the war.

Mr Périquier had been deeply affected two years ago by the loss of his wife, *née* Adrienne Blanc, after more than 50 years of a happy marriage (they had no children) and he never recovered from the shock.

It is gratifying to report that in accord with Mr Périquier's wishes, the equipment of his observatory and his astronomical library have been acquired by the University of Texas to assist in the development of the teaching and research facilities of the Department of Astronomy and the McDonald Observatory.

G. DE VAUCOULEURS

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